

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 02963 140827Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-06 AID-01 /034 W
-----007601 150526Z /11

R 131312Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6248
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (ASPIN, LES)
SUBJECT: CODEL ASPIN VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: ZAGREB 309

1. CONGRESSMAN LES ASPIN SPENT ALMOST SIX DAYS IN YUGOSLAVIA VISITING BELGRADE, SARAJEVO, AND ZAGREB FROM SUNDAY, APRIL 2, TO FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 7. HIS SCHEDULE IN EACH OF THESE CITIES WAS EXTREMELY FULL AND INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH LEADING JOURNALISTS, LCY OFFICERS, ECONOMISTS AND BUSINESS LEADERS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE YUGOSLAV DAILY NEWSPAPERS, BORBA AND POLITIKA, HAD BRIEF ARTICLES ON HIS TRAVELS THROUGHOUT YUGOSLAVIA ON A DAILY BASIS. SARAJEVO TELEVISION VIDEO-TAPED PORTIONS OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT POZDERAC FOR LATER SCREENING.

2. IN BELGRADE, THE CONGRESSMAN HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH COL.- GENERAL IVAN KUKOC, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YUGOSLAV ARMY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LCY; BUDIMIR LONCAR, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MIHAJLO JAVORSKI, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL CHAMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY; BOGDAN CRNOBRNJA, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN THE CHAMBER OF REPUBLICS AND PROVINCES OF

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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY; MICHAEL DOBBS, RESIDENT WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT; AND MILOVAN DJILAS. HE ALSO HAD LUNCHEES OR DINNERS WITH A GROUP OF FOUR OF THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOREIGN AMBASSADORS TO YUGOSLAVIA; A GROUP OF JOURNALISTS; AND A VARIETY OF ECONOMIC/POLITICAL FIGURES INCLUDING MIODRAG STOJILJKOVIC, ASSISTANT FINANCE SECRETARY, AND TOMA GRANFIL, FORMER YUOGLAV AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. HE VISITED

THE PKB AGRICULTURAL KOMBINAT AND DISCUSSED THEIR OPERATIONS
IN DETAIL.

3. HIS ZAGREB SCHEDULE WAS COVERED IN REFTTEL. IN SARAJEVO,
HE MET WITH HAMDIJA POZDERAC, PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF
BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA, AND HAD A COMBINED MEETING/LUNCH WITH
ZARKO KOLENDA, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC EXCEUCTIVE
COUNCIL.

4. THE TRAVEL, INCLUDING A JOURNEY BY CAR FROM SARAJEVO TO
BELGRADE, THE LARGE NUMBER OF MEETINGS SCHEDULED DAILY,
AND NUMEROUS TALKS WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL GAVE CONGRESSMAN
ASPIN A WIDE EXPOSURE TO YUGOSLAVIA, INCLUDING ITS HISTROY,
ECONOMY AND POLITICAL SITUATION. THE YUGOSLAVS WERE VERY
HOSPITABLE THROUGHOUT THE VISIT. SEVERAL COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON
THE TITO VISIT TO THE U.S. AND THE "POSITIVE" CHANGE IN
ATTITUDE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS EXHIBITED RECENTLY
TOWARDS THE NONALIGNED. AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
TRIP WERE THE FRANK DISCUSSIONS ON CENSORSHIP WITH THE
YUGOSLAV JOURNALISTS, THE TALK WITH DJILAS, AND THE EXPLANATION OF
THE ROLE OF THE YUGOSLAV ARMY WITH REGARD TO THE LCY AND THE
COUNTRY AS A WHOLE BY COL.-GENERAL KUKOC.
EAGLEBURGER

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELGRA02963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780162-0187
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780462/aaaacasg.tel
Line Count: 93
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7afe39b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ZAGREB 309
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2985848
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL ASPIN VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: OREP, (ASPIN, LES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7afe39b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014